

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Town Deliberative Session
February 8, 2006
Prospect Mountain High School

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the voters met at the Prospect Mountain High School on Wednesday the Eighth (8th) day of February in the year Two Thousand Six (2006), beginning at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deliberation upon the following Warrant Articles and the town elections to approve the warrant articles by ballot vote.

Moderator Mark Northridge started the meeting at 7:06 p.m. This is the first deliberative session of the 210th annual meeting of the town of Alton. The second session will be held on March 14th at the same location to vote upon the entire Warrant. Today we are here to discuss Articles 12-46 and to prepare Articles 12-45 for the ballot. Article I is candidates running for office and Articles 2-11 are zoning articles neither of which can be amended at this meeting. Reverend Peter Bolster offered words of encouragement. The Moderator officially opened the meeting and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Northridge then introduced Reuben Wentworth, Assistant Moderator, Jennifer McCullough, Transcriber, Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk, Russell Bailey, Town Administrator, James Sessler, Town Attorney, Alan Sherwood, Chairman Board of Selectmen, Cris Blackstone, Member Board of Selectmen, Stephan McMahon Member Board of Selectmen and Pete Shibley, Member Board of Selectmen.

The Moderator also introduced Budget Committee members, Stephen Miller, Chairman, Laurie Boyce, Vice Chairman, Virgil Macdonald, Member, Greg Fuller, Member, John Brooks, Member and Bill Curtin, Member.

Moderator Northridge stated this meeting could be lengthy. This is our first meeting under SB2. My intent is to complete the meeting this evening, however, if we are unable to get through tonight, Thursday evening has been reserved at this location. The Moderator's rules of the meeting were read.

Stephen Miller, Chairman of the Budget Committee read a brief statement explaining their process for determining the budget and concluded with the following motion:

"I move, for the record that the Alton Town Operating Budget be offered to the voters as being jointly agreed by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen as presented," seconded by Alan Sherwood.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for which there are vacancies, for such terms as may be permitted by law; and to elect: one selectmen for three years, one town clerk for three years, one tax collector for three years, one treasurer for three years, one trustee of the trust funds for three years, one library trustee for three years, one fire ward for three years, one moderator for two years, one cemetery trustee for three years, one cemetery trustee for one year, one water commissioner for three years, one budget committee member for three years, two planning board members for three years and one supervisor of the checklist for six years.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #1 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 335 [2005 Section 235] APPEARANCE REVIEW by adding the words “and the Master Plan” paragraph “B” to read as follows:** “Review process: As part of its site review and subdivision process the Planning Board shall review each proposal for conformance with the intent of this ordinance and the Master Plan. The Board shall take into account the location within the community, surrounding properties and proposed use of any proposed development in making its decision.” Rationale: A reference to the Master Plan is added to direct an applicant to additional information regarding Appearance Review, such as landscaping requirements, signage, and design of commercial buildings.

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #2 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 330 [2005 Section 230] ELDERLY HOUSING definition to include “At least one resident of the household must be 62 years old or older” and to change 330:5[230:4]: Design Criteria for Elderly Housing: to add changes to the permitted central support facilities to include “Central dining facilities (serving staff, residents, and their guests only),” “circuit dental care,” and limiting use of the permitted central facilities “General Store (servicing staff, residents and their guests)” and Medical sub-stations...” to (servicing residents only)”. Rationale: This amendment is proposed to identify the minimum age criteria for elderly housing and to limit the use of support facilities in elderly housing complexes to residents, their guests and staff of the complex in order to prevent the creation of small businesses open to the general public in zones where commercial uses are not permitted.**

ARTICLE 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #3 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 331[2005 Section - 231] CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES and amend proposed 2006 Section 401 [2005 – Section 301] TABLE OF USES Retail Business and Service to allow continuing Care Retirement Communities as allowed uses in the Residential, Residential-Commercial, Residential Rural, and Rural Zones; and to amend 2006 ARTICLE 200 [2005 – Article 500] DEFINITIONS: Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC), Independent Living CCRC, Assisted Living CCRC facilities, and Dwelling Unit – CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community). Rationale: The purpose of this amendments is to allow the development of continuing care retirement communities and to define the permitted uses within these communities.**

ARTICLE 5: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #4 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 401[2005 Section - 301] PERMITTED USES – TABLE OF USES to add the uses: “Amusement – Indoor” and “Amusement – Outdoor” separately in table (permitted zones not changed); and move “Hotel or Motel”, “Lodging House or Bed & Breakfast”, and Seasonal Cabins” to the “Retail Business and Service “ section of the Table (permitted zones not changed); and to delete “Mini Warehouse” from use #27, leaving the remaining Self-Storage Facilities, Warehouses” uses and to delete the**

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term “Guest House” from 2006 use #25 under Retail Business and Service (2005 use #11 under Residential Uses). Rationale: This amendment is proposed to recognize differences in Indoor and Outdoor Amusements, to remove outdated terms (mini-warehouse and guest house), to identify hotels, motels, lodging houses, bed and breakfast as commercial uses. No changes are made to the zones in which these uses are permitted.

ARTICLE 6: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #5 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 463 [2005 Section - 363] (RURAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE) RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING USE** to read that “no more than 25% of the minimum lot requirement can be made up of jurisdictional Wetlands and Steep Slopes – 25% or greater. Rationale: The purpose of this amendment is to assure that newly created lots in the Rural Residential zone have a buildable area of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre per dwelling unit for structures, well and septic.

ARTICLE 7: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #6 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 603 [2005 Section - 270] WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ORDINANCE with SECTION 603 PERSONAL WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITIES ORDINANCE?** Rationale: The purpose of this ordinance is to improve wireless service in the area and provide alternatives to tall towers with less visual impact upon the town.

ARTICLE 8: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #7 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 327 [2005 Section - 227] SETBACK REQUIREMENTS** that “a 25 foot natural vegetative buffer shall be maintained from all wetlands, greater than 10,000 square feet in size” and that building structures be subject to setbacks to include a “perennial stream”) This would apply only to lots created after March 14, 2006. Rationale: The purpose of this amendment is to require a protective buffer around wetlands on newly created lots and to create a building setback from perennial streams.

ARTICLE 9: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #8 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 200 [2005 Section - 500] to modify definitions for the following:** Boat Sales and Boat Service, Dwelling, Elderly Housing, Energy Facility, Frontage(Street), Manufactured Mobile Home Park, Public Waters, Warehouse, and Wetland; **and to add definitions for the following:** Agriculture; Automobile, motorcycle, light truck sales, leasing or rental; Conservation; Recreational Use, Not For Profit; Studio, Art or Photographers; and Wholesale Marketing. Rationale: The purpose of this amendment is to add language to clarify existing definitions and to add definitions for terms used in the Zoning Ordinance that were lacking definitions.

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ARTICLE 10: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #9 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION 452 B [2005 Section – 352 B] Rural Zone – RESTRICTING GOVERNING USE**; which would require “Each lot shall have a minimum of 200 feet of frontage at the street or highway line. Corner lots shall have a minimum of 200 feet of frontage on each street or highway.” Rationale: The purpose of this amendment is to correct a typographical in the 2004 Warrant that was carried forward to the 2004 and 2005 Zoning Ordinance.

ARTICLE 11: Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment #10 proposed by the Planning Board as follows: **To amend proposed section 2006 SECTION ALL[2005 Section All] Reformatting the zoning ordinance with new numbering sequence.** This amendment does not change any zoning regulations only rennumbers. Rationale: The purpose of this amendment is to change the order of the sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new police patrol vehicle which will replace an existing vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Police Chief Kevin Iwans spoke for the article. This is a warrant article we have had for the past 10 years, which is part of the maintenance program. It is not only to purchase a vehicle but also to change lights, radio, and video systems, GPS, and lap top. This is part of the rotation program and is vital.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** to be placed in the Police Building Capital Reserve fund as previously established. This fund has already been established as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Chief Kevin Iwans stated there is currently \$80,000 in the capital reserve fund to expand the current police department. We are trying to minimize impact to taxpayers. This is another 5 years down the road.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Stephan McMahon and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Town Administrator Russell Bailey stated this is the third year we have had this reserve fund. He also stated we do have contamination coming out of the landfill and we are working with the Department of Environmental Services. This money is needed for monitoring and possible construction of new wells. This will continue until monitoring shows we have no more contamination from this site.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ninety-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$99,500.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new loader to replace the existing 1982 loader located at the solid waste facility. This loader is necessary for the daily processing of the waste containers and maintenance of the facility. This amount to be offset by \$59,500 from the existing capital reserve fund and the balance of \$40,000 is the only amount to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Scott Simonds, Solid Waste Center Director spoke. This is to replace the current 1982 loader at the landfill. This is starting to show its age and we don't want to start putting money into it.

Comment by Loring Carr asking for estimate of what you would get on trade in for old unit.

Scott Simonds stated \$12-\$15,000.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the building and site improvements Capital Reserve Fund for the transfer station which also includes the EPA stormwater management implementation requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Scott Simonds spoke in favor of this.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Pete Shibley and the motion passed.

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ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** to be added to Town Beach Improvements Capital Reserve Fund. This is the final appropriation that will provide for completing the beach restoration as this project has received approval for all permits and is part of a two-phased project. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move made by Pete Shibley, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Kelly Troendle, Parks and Recreation director spoke in favor of the article. Funds for Phase II are for core facility requirements to include turf planting for shade, a 10 x 12 covered picnic shelter, and shade area, seasonal lattice fencing, granite benches, and walkway.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Stephan McMahon and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Alton raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Five Million Three Hundred Ten Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars (\$5,310,597.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million One Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars (\$5,173,527.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Motion to amend article was presented by Bob Longabaugh seconded by Marybee Longabaugh to increase \$700.00 for the purpose of a new video camera (DVD).

Amendment was brought forward in writing.

Vote of Amendment to increase to \$5,311,297.00. Amendment passes.

Question from Duane Hammond as to what will happen to purchase of camera if we go to the Default Budget, Russell Bailey stated it would not be included.

Loring Carr questioned reduction in insurance for \$13,120. Russell Bailey explained this was due to change of insurance (workers compensation) carrier. Also changed unemployment insurance.

Loring Carr questioned the reduction in other Culture and Recreation of \$12,860.00. Russell Bailey stated that is for the Gilman Museum, which operates from a trust fund.

Alan Johnson, Fire Chief, made a motion, seconded by Scott Williams to amend the bottom line to \$5,324,497.00, an increase of \$13,200.00 which reflects the Board of Selectmen recommended budget for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Johnson further explained in 2005 the

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Fire Department had a 25.5% increase in calls over last year and we feel we can't serve the community with the cut.

A request was made by Ken Roberts to break down cuts and actual expenditures as of December from Fire Department Accounts on a line-by-line basis.

Broken down as follows by Stephen Miller:

Account #	Department Head	Board of Selectmen	Budget Committee	Actual Spent	Reason for Reduction
162-Computer Expenses	\$6,450.00	\$6,450.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,735.00	We eliminated one laptop. Amount spent as of December was different then when we originally met second time. That would have changed our minds.
201-New Equipment	\$16,500.00	\$16,500.00	\$14,000.00	\$16,561.97	Elimination of stablilization jacks. Description of need and use of additional stabilization jacks changed from time of meeting to public hearing.
206-Fire Uniforms	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,781.00	Sought to eliminate 20 badges. Thought excessive amount of pants, shirts, and hats being ordered.
207-Vehicle Expenses	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$12,781.00	Reduced restorative repairs because Tank Engine #1 was an extraordinary expense the previous year, which we shouldn't have to anticipate the following year.
245-Fire Alarms	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,342.00	As of November only \$1,200.00 had been spent. The Chief did not anticipate using the balance up.

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Account #	Department Head	Board of Selectmen	Budget Committee	Actual Spent	Reason for Reduction
342-Forest Fire	\$3,420.00	\$3,420.00	\$1,670.00	\$10.79	GPS expense was too high. We felt no critical need to replace hose and line bags.
440-Radio Repairs	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,595.00	Had only spent \$1,445.00 by November 1.
449-Preemployment Screening	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,200.00	\$105.00	\$0 expended by October.

Loring Carr stated that on page two of the handouts the Selectmen recommended \$296,264.00 and would like an explanation of cuts or additions.

Alan Sherwood stated \$1,000.00 for meetings and conferences, \$400 for travel and the telephone went from \$7,200.00 to \$6,480.00 which is a DSL line not needed because they already have high-speed Internet.

Moderator Northridge announced there was a request for a secret ballot signed by 5 voters of the Town. He further explained the vote was to amend Article 18 to adjust the amount to \$5,324,497.00. He instructed the voters to use the light pink tear-off.

Yes 42, No 69, the amendment fails.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Stephan McMahon and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Twelve Thousand-Two-Hundred-Forty Four Dollars (\$112,244.00)** and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$112,244.00 from the Ambulance Operation fund as previously established under RSA 31: 95c for the purpose of the ambulance lease payment, ambulance personnel wages and ambulance supplies. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Fire Ward Ken Roberts spoke for the article.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)** to be added to the Alton Fire Station Capital Reserve. This fund has already been established as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

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Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Chief Johnson explained the purpose of this Article is to expand the East Alton Fire Station to house some of the 9 students we have currently living in the Central and West Alton Fire Stations.

Ruth Messier questioned as to if this was something that was recommended by the Safety Committee. I thought that this was for an expansion of the current fire department.

Alan Sherwood stated that being part of that safety committee, we looked at the Central as well as other outlying stations. We recognize need for expansion of all stations over time. Chuck Westin stated that this was one of the recommendations by the committee because the town is growing in both directions and it is necessary for public safety.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Pete Shibley and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand-Four Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$50,421.00)** for the lease payment on the Fire Rescue Vehicle. The sum of \$50,421 to come from fund balance (surplus) and no funds to be raised from general taxation. This is the second payment on the lease/purchase of a five-year agreement. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Fire Chief Johnson stated that this payment is the second lease payment on the truck.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$387,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new Fire Pump Truck. A portion of this amount to come from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve of \$187,000 and the balance of \$200,000 is the only amount to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Fire Chief Johnson made a motion to amend the article to add the words “and equipping” after purpose of purchasing, seconded by Ken Roberts.

Chief Johnson stated that last year the line item for vehicle expenses went over budget. \$9,600.00 was spent for the maintenance of a truck that was scheduled to be replaced next year, which will be 20 years old next year.

Greg Fuller questioned if this will purchase and equip the truck completely. Confirmed by Chief Johnson.

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Voted on the amendment, the amendment passed.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Russell Bailey and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$157,090.61. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways, with \$750,000 being raised each year since 2001. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Highway Agent Ken Roberts stated it costs \$750,000 per mile of road and Alton has 66 miles of road. He further stated the following Warrant Article is part of a new plan which includes a \$150,000 cut to this article and he agrees with the cut.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Pete Shibley, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred-Twenty-Eight-Three Hundred-Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$228,375)** for the purpose of purchasing an excavator for use by the highway department for reconstruction and maintenance of the town roads. This equipment is necessary to efficiently implement the new road reconstruction/maintenance program. Said amount to be partially offset by \$165,000 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve and the balance of \$68,375 is the only amount to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Ken Roberts stated this is the reason the previous article was cut. The Highway Department is going to take over road reconstruction as well as the maintenance. He further stated we are looking at a 44,000-lb. machine which is a 320. We think every mile of road we build will save \$500,000.00.

Russell Bailey made a motion to amend the article to read Two Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars, seconded by Cris Blackstone to correct a typographical error.

Voted on the amendment. The amendment passed.

Loring Carr questioned is this a 320 Cat and what else did you look at and what were the price differences.

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Ken Roberts stated he just used CAT as an example. It will be a generic bid on a middle of the line machine. We have used this 44,000-lb. machine for 6 years. We will also be looking at service.

Dan Lacroix had questions regarding road construction and what they would do about transporting this kind of equipment.

Ken Roberts stated we rent equipment to move machines. When it goes on job site it stays for a while. It costs approximately \$120 to move the machine.

Greg Fuller and Angela Bystrack reiterated the importance of a generic bid.

Terri Noyes asked how many extra employees will you need?

Ken said none at this time.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Pete Shibley, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$43,000.00)** for the purchase of a truck/plow for the highway department. This will replace an existing truck that can no longer be used for plowing. . This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Pete Shibley.

Ken Roberts stated the truck is about \$26,000.00 but we have extras such as a plow package, bed liner, extended warranty, extra set of studded snow tires and bucket seats. The current truck cannot plow. A generic bid package will be sent out.

Bill Curtin asked what will happen to old truck.

Ken stated the 1993 that we have today is leaving. The frame is cracked in 13 different places and I don't know what we could get for a trade-in.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Pete Shibley and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** for the purpose of building an addition to the existing town garage located on Letter S Road. This addition will be done by the highway staff and is needed for the maintenance of the town vehicles. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Pete Shibley.

Ken Roberts stated that with the addition of the Town Mechanic, we have had to buy some different equipment and we are running out of room. This would be a 20' x 37' addition.

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Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Ken Roberts stated that we have \$83,620.00 in the Capital Reserve Fund and will take about \$67,000.00 out to replace the bridge on Places Mill Road. The estimated cost to complete this project is \$335,000.00 but we have a grant to pay for the rest. He further stated this is a good program.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Pete Shibley, seconded by Stephan McMahon and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand One Hundred-Sixty Dollars (\$8,160.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meal on wheels, weatherization assistance, Women, Infants and Children food assistance program(WIC). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Russell Bailey.

Bob Adams, area center director for City of Laconia stated that we provided over \$289,000 worth of services. We are asking for a modest \$389 increase this year.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Stephan McMahon and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirteen Thousand Forty Five Dollars (\$13,045)** for the purpose of supporting the VNA Hospice which is a not for profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Alan Sherwood.

Cris Blackstone stated they made 5,875 visits last year up nearly 200 from the year before. The request of \$13,045 is 7% less than last year.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Pete Shibley and the motion passed.

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ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$19,975.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Youth Services Bureau, which provides alternatives to court involvement for Juvenile offenders, parent/child mediation, intervention and education programs. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Stephen Miller stated that the reason that the Budget Committee did not recommend this was because only 13 people in the town took advantage of this service.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Russell Bailey and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$4,100.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Community Health and Hospice, which provides visiting nurse, homemaker and hospice services to residents. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Russell Bailey.

Richard Wood, Community Health and Hospice spoke on behalf of the article. He stated VNA is out of Wolfeboro and this organization is out of Laconia.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Pete Shibley, seconded by Russell Bailey and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars (\$1,397.00)** for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provide disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Stephan McMahon and the motion passed.

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ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$8,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities, housing in close coordination with the town welfare department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Karen Alden alternate director for Alton Community Services stated we have a completely volunteer staff and the monies raised covers insurance and rent. We help 20 to 50 or 60 families a month.

Reverend Peter Bolster stated one of the beautiful things about this agency and why it works is because the community all works together. We are asking for \$1,000 more because we are down due to fuel assistance.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Russell Bailey and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars (\$368.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Medication Bridge Prescription Program which is a not for profit volunteer program that provides assistance to residents in need of prescriptions in coordination with the Alton Welfare department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting the New Beginnings which provides 24 hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operate a shelter and provide counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation is not recommended by the Selectmen and is recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Maureen Slagle, member of Board of Directors for New Beginnings, stated that we have asked for a modest increase this year of \$200. We offer 24-hour crisis line.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Russell Bailey and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Thousand One Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$6,118.00)** for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services cover children, elders and along with other emergency services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Russell Bailey.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Caregivers Transportation which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Shirley Bentley representing Caregivers Program stated this is the first year we have requested funds. She stated there is no public transportation in the area, therefore, much of the time is spent bringing people to Huggins or Lakes Region Hospital. The Alton volunteers have driven 9,153 miles just for people in Alton.

Richard Cunningham from West Alton wanted to verify West Alton is also serviced. Shirley Bentley confirmed that the area is serviced.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Russell Bailey and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to purchase ten plus acres of land located on Trask Side Road. This land was sold in a town auction in 1996 but is not buildable due to deed restrictions and also has ownership rights to all properties within the subdivision. The \$10,000 covers the base purchase price of \$6500 plus taxes since the sale in 1996. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until purchased or by December 31st, 2007. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

Motion to move by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Russell Bailey stated that this article came to our attention in early fall. It was sold by the town at auction in the mid 90's. There are two restrictions on this land, the first being the Planning Board made this open conservation land and could not be developed. Secondly, everyone in the subdivision has rights to the use of the property.

Virgil Macdonald questioned whether the people who have the right to use the land be taxed for it.

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Russell Bailey stated it will be deeded back to the town because we took it for taxes in the early 90's.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Pete Shibley and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 39: We the following, being duly registered voters in the town of Alton, do hereby submit the following article to be acted upon by the voters of Alton, NH:

To see if the town will vote to, "Direct the Town of Alton to reimburse the Homeowners of Linwood Drive for the legal expenses incurred as a result of the Linwood Drive homeowners having to seek the Superior Court decision that required the Town of Alton to accept Linwood Drive as a Town Public Road. The amount of the reimbursement to be \$25,070.33.

[Appropriation not recommended by the Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required) (Petition Article)

Motion to move by Bradley Smith, seconded by Pauline Archambault.

Bradley Smith, a resident of Linwood Drive spoke on behalf of the article. He explained the development was completed in the late 80's, the road was built, the bond released, and the residents were told once the population reached 50% the road would be accepted. Approximately 2 years ago there was a hearing, the Board of Selectmen wanted an engineering study done, the residents felt there was no need for a study as the road was built to the town's specifications. The case was brought to Supreme Court in September and it was ruled that the town was obligated to accept it as a public road. The money is to reimburse the residents of Linwood Drive for legal fees.

Alan Sherwood amended the article to read "To see if the Town will vote to recommend that the Town reimburse zero dollars to private landowners for legal expenses relative to Linwood Drive" seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Alan Sherwood stated I have three points I would like to make. First, the residents of Linwood Drive would not work with the Selectmen like the residents of Hermit Drive, Bachelder Road, and Stonewall Drive. They were also looking to have their roads accepted as Town roads and did work with the Board of Selectmen and Highway Agent to make roads up to standards. The second point is the \$25,000 fee is very high, the Town averages \$5,000 to \$7,000 for a case to Superior Court and it was the residents choice to pick a lawyer with a high fee structure. The third point is this would use public funds for a private purpose to reimburse private individuals and therefore it would be an illegal appropriation.

Virgil Macdonald stated they should have asked the Judge to be reimbursed.

Steve Miller stated we cannot set a precedent to pay legal fees every time we are sued.

Tim Kinnon spoke on the notion of amending a petition article during a deliberative session and feels a petition article should go before the voters as written.

Alan Sherwood restated it is our attorney's opinion this would be an illegal appropriation.

Linda O'Neil, a resident of Linwood Drive since 1995, spoke in favor of the petition article.

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Bradley Smith spoke in regards to the fact that they did not cooperate with the town and stated this wasn't the case.

Ken Roberts stated that he was the one that inspected the road and did not recommend accepting it. He further stated the road was built in 1989, at time of inspection there were cracks in the road and there was no preventive maintenance done.

Bradley Smith stated the Superior Court Judge went out and looked at the road and said in his opinion it had the kind of wear that you would expect from a road that was built 15 to 17 years ago.

Laurie Boyce and Bob Longabaugh both reiterated the fact that a petition article should not be changed.

John Brooks supports the petition article.

Moderator Northridge announced there was a request for a secret ballot signed by 5 voters of the Town. He instructed the voters to use the bright pink tear-off. The moderator re-read the amendment. While votes were being counted the Moderator announced that there will be a candidates night at the town hall Wednesday March 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

49 Yes 44 No. The amendment passes.

Linda Roy questioned the legality of changing a petition article.

Russell Bailey stated that he contacted municipal attorneys at the state level and confirmed petition articles can be amended.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Pete Shibley, seconded by Cris Blackstone and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to grant an easement for the benefit of property owned by Marilyn Pierce to construct, reconstruct, maintain and repair a retaining wall and septic system to the area of land known as Railroad Avenue between the edge of the improved and traveled roadways and the property of said Pierce. The Selectmen are authorized to reserve such public rights in the easement area as they determine necessary.

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Michael Bemis stated he prepared the land survey plan and the area of the easement is 15' x 50'. It runs along the southwest side of Mrs. Pierce's property in West Alton. There will be no interference with the roadway. A very similar easement was granted two years ago to the abutting landowner.

Motion to restrict reconsideration by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Russell Bailey motion passed.

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will authorized the establishment of a Recycling revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31-95h for the purpose of facilitating and encouraging recycling as defined in RSA 149-M:4. The Fund to be called the "Recycling Revolving Revenue Fund with revenue to be derived strictly from the fees and receipts received from the processing and sale of recycled materials. The money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not

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be considered part of the town's general surplus. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out only upon order of the authorized agent. And further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to be the authorized agent for this fund. These funds may be expended only for the recycling purposes as stated in RSA 149-M:4, and no expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other town funds which have not been appropriated for that purpose.

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Russell Bailey stated this article would take all revenues from recycled goods, put the receipts in this fund and use the receipts for recycling purposes, only to be expended under the authorization of the Board of Selectmen. He also stated the monies now go into the general fund.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Cris Blackstone motion passed.

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will authorize the adoption of the 2000 International Building Code, 2003 International Mechanical Code, 2000 International Plumbing code, 2003 Residential Building Code, National Electrical Code 2005 and Life Safety 101 - 2003. The town presently uses the BOCA codes of 1993-1996, which have been replaced by the International Codes.

Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Stephan McMahon.

Brian Boyers, Building Official, stated that this will put us up with the state codes.

Greg Fuller asked if this passes will it be immediate?

Russell Bailey confirmed it would be immediate after the election in March.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Russell Bailey motion passed.

ARTICLE 43: I, the undersigned, want the following article placed on the 2006 Ballot for the Town of Alton, NH. I declare that I am a registered voter in the town of Alton, NH.

Starting with the Town ballot of 2007 the position of, Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, shall be an elected position pursuant to RSA 673:3 & RSA 669. (Petition Article)

Motion to move made by Laurie Boyce, seconded by Tim Kinnon.

Tim Kinnon spoke in favor of the petition article. He stated reasons for bringing this article forward. If ZBA is an elected position, it would give the voters of this town a better representation of what they want the zoning ordinances to look like. The other reason is that this would eliminate the conflict of interest that could arise if the Board of Selectmen needed to appoint a ZBA member.

Duane Hammond asked if there aren't enough candidates to run how will the position be filled?

Tim Kinnon stated the ZBA members would appoint new members.

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Marcella Perry, Chairman of the ZBA, stated that she feels it is important to keep this board an appointed board, not elected. It has operated this way for many years and has worked well.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Russell Bailey motion passed.

ARTICLE 44: We the undersigned voters of the Town of Alton do hereby request that the Alton Board of Selectmen submit the following warrant article to abolish the Fire Wards to the 2006 annual town meeting as follows:

Are you in favor of changing the organization of the fire department by abolishing the positions of elected Fire Wards pursuant to RSA 154:1-I(d) and choosing in its place the organization that allows for the fire chief to be appointed by the local governing body, with fire fighters appointed by the local governing body based on the recommendations of the fire chief pursuant to RSA 154:1-I(b). This change would take place one(1) year from the 2006 town meeting. (Petition Article)

Motion to move made by John Brooks, seconded by Laurie Boyce.

John Brooks stated I brought this petition article forward. He further stated we now have a permanent Fire Chief who is capable of carrying out full duties without the advice of Fire Wards and this would be a \$4,145 savings to the taxpayers if the Fire Wards were eliminated. He also stated Wolfeboro and Meredith have Fire Chiefs and no Fire Wards.

Ken Roberts, the Fire Wards Chairman spoke against this article. He stated this \$4,000 is among 3 people with an impact of .003 to your tax dollar. He further stated some of the responsibilities of the Fire Wards are to look at the budget to save taxpayers money, we worked on the revolving ambulance fund, looked at future needs of equipment and buildings and work on keeping rules and regulations updated.

Stephen Miller spoke in favor of abolishing the Fire Wards, but not strictly as an economic issue as the Fire Chief is full time and has the ability to call any other Chief to ask advice on any issue.

Scott Williams spoke against this petition article.

Fire Chief Johnson is not in favor of the article. He stated they are an asset to the department and community.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Cris Blackstone, seconded by Stephan McMahon motion passed.

ARTICLE 45: Shall we adopt an exemption for the disabled: The exemption based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers shall be \$40,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire Resident for at least 5 years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$25,000 if single and \$44,000 if married; and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. Also must be eligible under the Federal Social Security Act for benefits to the totally and permanently disabled per RSA 72:37-b. (Majority vote required)

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Motion to move made by Alan Sherwood, seconded by Cris Blackstone.

Russell Bailey stated this was placed on the ballot by the selectmen as the Town has exemptions for the elderly, blind and veterans but not disabled persons. He further stated this would be set up similar to the elderly exemption. He explained the applicants must qualify under Social Security as being 100% disabled.

Motion to restrict reconsideration made by Stephan McMahon, seconded by Alan Sherwood and the motion passed.

ARTICLE 46: To hear any reports of any committee, board, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerned voters and to vote to accept the same. Furthermore to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

No Discussion.

Motion to dissolve this meeting made by Russell Bailey, seconded by Alan Sherwood. Meeting closed at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer McCullough, Recording Secretary

“A True Copy Attest”

Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk